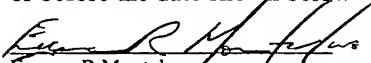


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on or before the date shown below


Eugene R. Montalvo

Date: 11 Oct 2006

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

15 In re Application of:)
COENEN, Josef Guillaume Christoffel)
Serial No.: 10/519,137) Group Art Unit: 2856
20 Filed: 22 December 2004) Examiner: Rodney T Frank
11 October 2006
SYSTEM FOR DETECTING GAS IN A)
WELLBORE DURING DRILLING)
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
25 P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

30

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 15 June 2006

Dear Sir:

35 Attorney for Applicant in the above-captioned application herewith responds to the
Office Action mailed 15 June 2006. At the time the Office Action issued, claims 1 to 16
were pending.